
California Board of Registered Nursing

2007-2008 Annual School Report

Data Summary and Historical Trend Analysis

A Presentation of Pre-Licensure Nursing Education Programs in California

Greater Sacramento

March 30, 2009

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INTRODUCTION

Each year, the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) requires all pre-licensure registered nursing programs in California to complete a survey detailing statistics of their programs, students and faculty. The survey collects data from August 1 through July 31. Information gathered from these surveys is compiled into a database and used to analyze trends in nursing education.

The BRN commissioned the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to conduct a historical analysis of data collected from the 2000-2001 survey through the 2007-2008 survey. In this report, we present eight years of historical data from the BRN Annual School Survey. Data analyses were conducted statewide and for nine economic regions¹ in California, with a separate report for each region. All reports are available on the BRN website (<http://www.rn.ca.gov/>).

This report presents data from the 6-county Greater Sacramento region. Counties in the region include El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba. All data are presented in aggregate form and describe overall trends in the areas and over the times specified and, therefore, may not be applicable to individual nursing education programs. Additional data from the past eight years of the BRN Annual School Survey are available in an interactive database on the BRN website.

¹ The nine regions include: (1) Northern California, (2) Northern Sacramento Valley, (3) Greater Sacramento, (4) Bay Area, (5) San Joaquin Valley, (7) Central Coast, (8) Southern California I (Los Angeles and Ventura counties), (9) Southern California II (Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties), and (10) Southern Border Region. Counties within each region are detailed in the corresponding regional report. The Central Sierra (Region 6) does not have any nursing education programs and was, therefore, not included in the analyses.

DATA SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL TREND ANALYSES

This analysis presents pre-licensure program data from the 2007-2008 BRN Annual School Survey in comparison with data from previous years of the survey. Data items addressed include the number of nursing programs, enrollments, completions, retention rates and student and faculty census data.

Trends in Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs

Number of Nursing Programs

There are seven nursing programs in the Greater Sacramento region that lead to RN licensure. Of these programs, five are ADN programs, one is a BSN program, and one is an ELM program. The majority (85.7%) of pre-licensure nursing programs in the Greater Sacramento region are public.

Number of Nursing Programs

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Total # Nursing Programs	5	5	5	5	5	7	7	7
<i>ADN Programs</i>	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
<i>BSN Programs</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>ELM Programs</i>						1	1	1
<i>Public Programs</i>	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6
<i>Private Programs</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1

Admission Spaces and New Student Enrollments

Admission spaces available for new student enrollments more than tripled in the past eight years, from 283 spaces in 2000-2001 to 865 in 2007-2008. These spaces were filled with a total of 918 students, more than tripling new student enrollment during the same time period.

Availability and Utilization of Admission Spaces

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Spaces Available	283	340	340	490	561	636	561	865
New Student Enrollments	278	340	340	486	563	663	624	918
% Spaces Filled	98.2%	100.0%	100.0%	99.2%	100.4%	104.2%	111.2%	106.1%

Despite the increase in available admission spaces, nursing programs receive more applications requesting entrance into their programs than can be accommodated. In 2007-2008, 77.2% (n=3,114) of qualified applications to Greater Sacramento nursing education programs were not accepted for admission. The number of qualified applications and new student enrollments for nursing programs in the region are the highest they have been in eight years.

Applications Accepted and Not Accepted for Admission

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Qualified Applications	434	691	866	886	1,859	2,421	2,391	4,032
<i>Accepted</i>	278	340	340	486	563	663	624	918
<i>Not Accepted</i>	156	351	526	400	1,296	1,758	1,767	3,114
% Qualified Applications <i>Not Accepted</i>	35.9%	50.8%	60.7%	45.1%	69.7%	72.6%	73.9%	77.2%

**Since these data represent applications rather than individuals, an increase in qualified applications may not represent equal growth in the number of individuals applying to nursing school.

New student enrollments in pre-licensure nursing education programs in Greater Sacramento have more than tripled (n=640) since 2000-2001. In the past year, enrollments in ADN programs increased by 27.5% (n=121), while enrollments in BSN programs almost doubled (n=173). The majority (61.1%) of nursing students in Greater Sacramento are educated in ADN programs.

New Student Enrollment by Program Type

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
New Student Enrollment	278	340	340	486	563	663	624	918
<i>ADN</i>	188	220	220	359	392	461	440	561
<i>BSN</i>	90	120	120	127	171	138	184	357
<i>ELM</i>						64	0	0
<i>Private</i>						11	28	54
<i>Public</i>	278	340	340	486	563	652	596	864

Student Completions

The number of students who completed a nursing program in the Greater Sacramento region more than doubled, from 248 in 2000-2001 to 634 in 2007-2008. Of the 634 students that completed a nursing program in Greater Sacramento in 2007-2008, 54.7% (n=347) completed an ADN program, 36.8% (n=233) completed a BSN program, and 8.5% (n=54) completed an ELM program.

Student Completions

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Student Completions	248	277	267	302	403	419	444	634
<i>ADN</i>	162	171	173	189	294	304	332	347
<i>BSN</i>	86	106	94	113	109	115	112	233
<i>ELM</i>						0	0	54

Retention Rate

Of the 521 students scheduled to complete a nursing program in the 2007-2008 academic year, 74.3% (n=387) completed the program on-time, 3.5% (n=18) are still enrolled in the program, and 22.3% (n=116) dropped out or were disqualified from the program. The retention rate increased from 68.0% (n=353) in 2006-2007 to 74.3% (n=387) in 2007-2008.

Student Cohort Completion and Retention Data

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Enrollment	316	223	315	381	493	473	519	521
<i>Completed On Time</i>	237	171	258	298	382	350	353	387
<i>Still Enrolled</i>	22	13	25	43	23	31	49	18
<i>Attrition</i>	57	39	32	40	88	92	117	116
Retention Rate*	75.0%	76.7%	81.9%	78.2%	77.5%	74.0%	68.0%	74.3%
Attrition Rate	18.0%	17.5%	10.2%	10.5%	17.8%	19.5%	22.5%	22.3%
% Still Enrolled	7.0%	5.8%	7.9%	11.3%	4.7%	6.5%	9.5%	3.5%

*Retention rate = (students who completed the program on-time) / (enrollment)

There has been fluctuation in the retention and attrition rates over the eight-year period documented in the above table. There were changes to the survey between 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, and between 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 that may have affected the comparability of these data over time.

Student Census Data

The total number of students enrolled in Greater Sacramento nursing programs increased by 69.7% (n=443), from 636 on October 15, 2001, to 1,079 on October 15, 2008.

In 2006-2007, no pre-nursing students were reported. However, the number of pre-nursing students increased to 900 in 2007-2008. This shift in the number of pre-nursing students reported may be due to fewer programs reporting data than to an actual decrease in the number of pre-nursing students.

Student Census Data

Program Track	Academic Year							
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
ADN Program	377	409	519	637	393	731	705	722
BSN Program	259	271	318	352	351	353	401	357
ELM Program						60	60	
Total Nursing Students	636	680	837	989	744	1,144	1,166	1,079
Pre-Nursing Students					4,208	1,082	0	900

*Blank cells indicated that the applicable information was not requested in the given year.

Clinical Simulation in Nursing Education

Data show that 66.7% (n=4) of the six nursing schools in the Greater Sacramento region used a clinical simulation center² between 8/1/07 and 7/31/08. All of the schools that use clinical simulation centers reported that they use these facilities to make up for clinical experiences. The majority (75.0%) of schools also use the facilities to check clinical competencies, to provide clinical experience not available in a clinical setting, and to standardize clinical experiences. Data also show that all of the nursing schools that currently use a clinical simulation center have plans to expand it.

Reasons for Using a Clinical Simulation Center*	2007-2008
To standardize clinical experiences	75.0%
To provide clinical experience not available in a clinical setting	75.0%
To check clinical competencies	75.0%
To make up for clinical experiences	100.0%
To increase capacity in your nursing program	25.0%
Number of schools that use a clinical simulation center	4

*These data were collected for the first time in 2006-2007. However, changes in these questions for the 2007-2008 administration of the survey and lack of confidence in the reliability of the 2006-2007 data prevent comparability of the data. Therefore, data from previous years of the survey are not shown.

² Clinical Simulation Center/Experience - students have a simulated real-time nursing care experience using hi-fidelity mannequins and clinical scenarios, which allow them to integrate, apply, and refine specific skills and abilities that are based on theoretical concepts and scientific knowledge. The experience includes videotaping, de-briefing and dialogue as part of the learning process.

Faculty Census Data

The total number of nursing faculty in the Greater Sacramento region has increased by 60.8% (n=59) since October 15, 2001. However, the number of faculty declined slightly over the last year, from 163 in 2007 to 156 a year later. Of the 156 total faculty in 2008, 50.6% (n=79) were full-time and 49.4% (n=77) were part-time.

The number of faculty vacancies in the region has varied over the past eight years. On October 15, 2008, there were eight vacant faculty positions in Greater Sacramento. These vacancies represent a 4.9% faculty vacancy rate, a slight increase compared to the 2007 vacancy rate.

Faculty Data

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005*</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Total Faculty	97	106	115	125	132	125	163	156
<i>Full-time</i>	62	68	72	66	66	54	83	79
<i>Part-time</i>	35	38	43	59	28	71	80	77
Vacancy Rate**		3.6%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	2.3%	4.1%	4.9%
<i>Vacancies</i>		4	0	5	0	3	7	8

In 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, the sum of full- and part-time faculty did not equal the total faculty reported.

*Faculty vacancies were estimated based on the vacant FTEs reported.

**Vacancy rate = number of vacancies/(total faculty + number of vacancies)

Summary

The Greater Sacramento region has seen the number of qualified applications to its nursing programs increase almost ten-fold since 2000-2001. Although there was a plateau in the number of qualified applications between 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, there was a sharp increase (68.6%) in qualified applications in 2007-2008. Since 2000-2001, the number of admission spaces available and corresponding new student enrollments have more than tripled.

Nursing program expansions have led to a growing number of RN graduates in the region. Between 2000-2001 and 2007-2008, graduations more than doubled in the Greater Sacramento region. In the past year, retention rates rose from 68.0% (n=353) in 2006-2007 to 74.3% (n=387) in 2007-2008. Graduations will continue to rise as larger cohorts of students complete RN programs.

Expansion in nursing education has required nursing programs to hire more faculty. In 2008, Greater Sacramento had a small drop in the total number of faculty and an increase in the faculty vacancy rate to 4.9%. These findings indicate a need for faculty in the region. Without more faculty, RN programs will not be able to continue their expansion.

APPENDIX A – Greater Sacramento Nursing Education Programs

ADN Programs

American River College
 Sacramento City College
 Sierra College
 Western Career College
 Yuba College

BSN Programs

CSU Sacramento

ELM Programs

CSU Sacramento

APPENDIX B – BRN Education Advisory Committee Members

BRN Education Advisory Committee Members

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